



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF CRIME CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Progress of Jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in Establishing Interrogation Rooms Capable of Creating Audiovisual Recordings of Custodial Interrogations 2019 Report

*Criminal Procedure Article § 2-404, Senate Bill 76/Chapter 359 (2008), House
Bill 6/Chapter 360 (2008)*

Larry Hogan
Governor

Boyd K. Rutherford
Lt. Governor

V. Glenn Fueston, Jr.
Executive Director
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Submitted by:
Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention

Contact: Anthony Baranauskas
410-697-9382 | Anthony.Baranauskas@Maryland.gov

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Background

Chapters 359 and 360 of 2008, *Criminal Procedure - Custodial Interrogation - Recordation*, established a State policy in which a law enforcement unit using one or more interrogation rooms with the capability to create audio and/or visual recordings of custodial interrogations shall make reasonable efforts to record interrogations of suspects in connection with cases of murder, rape, or sexual offenses in the first or second degree.¹

Chapters 359 and 360 of 2008 also requires the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (Office) to submit a report to the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee by December 31, 2009, and annually thereafter, as it relates to the progress of jurisdictions and the Department of State Police in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audiovisual recordings of custodial interrogations.

The Office makes funding available to local law enforcement agencies through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, Law Enforcement Technology grant program for "Custodial Interrogation Equipment." Additional funds have been made available through the Byrne Justice Recovery Act since the law was enacted in 2008.

Methodology

Using an online survey tool, the Office created and administered an interrogation room survey which was distributed to all law enforcement agencies in the State. Through this survey, the Office collected information on the following:

1. Agency name
2. Number of interrogation rooms
3. The hardwired technological capabilities of each room (none, audio, visual, or both audio and visual)
4. The portable technological equipment used in each room (none, audio, visual, or both audio and visual)
5. Did the agency have future plans for adding interrogation rooms
6. Did the agency have future plans for purchasing new audio/visual equipment for each room
7. The funding source for each room

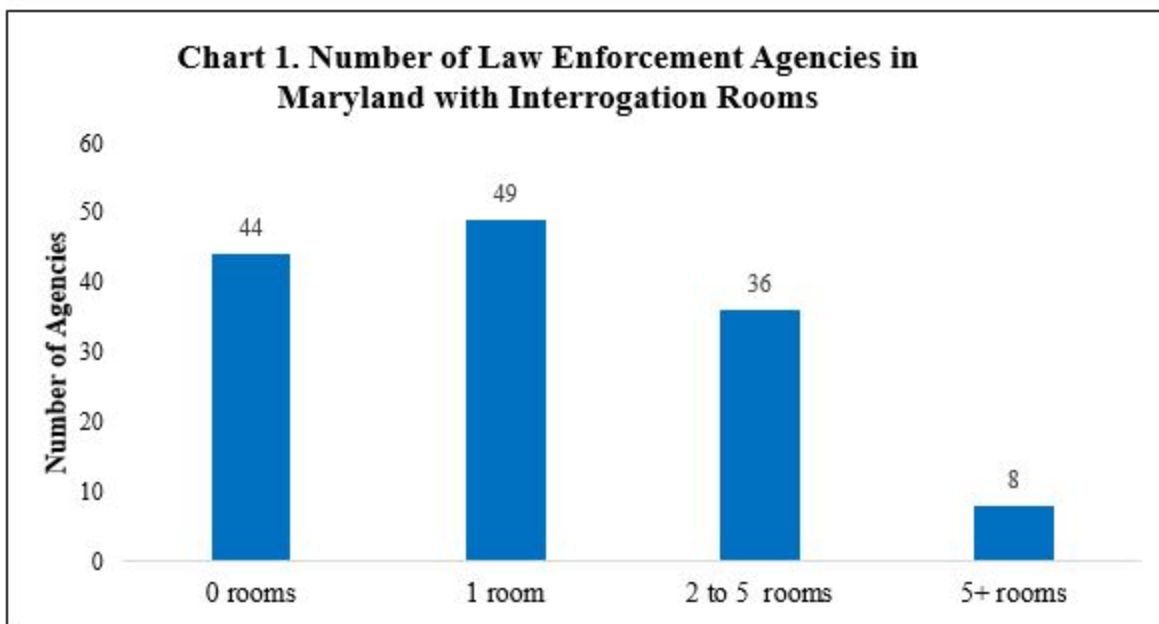
¹ Maryland General Assembly. (2008). [*Chapter 359 of 2008 \(Senate Bill 76\), Criminal Procedure - Custodial Interrogation - Recordation*](#). Maryland General Assembly. (2008). [*Chapter 360 of 2008 \(House Bill 6\), Criminal Procedure - Custodial Interrogation - Recordation*](#).

Results

Number of Interrogation Rooms

All 137 law enforcement agencies received the electronic interrogation room survey. From this total, 44 agencies (32.1%) reported that they do not have an interrogation room; whereas, 93 agencies (67.9%) reported at least one interrogation room. It is important to note that the 93 agencies have a combined total of 304 interrogation rooms in the State.

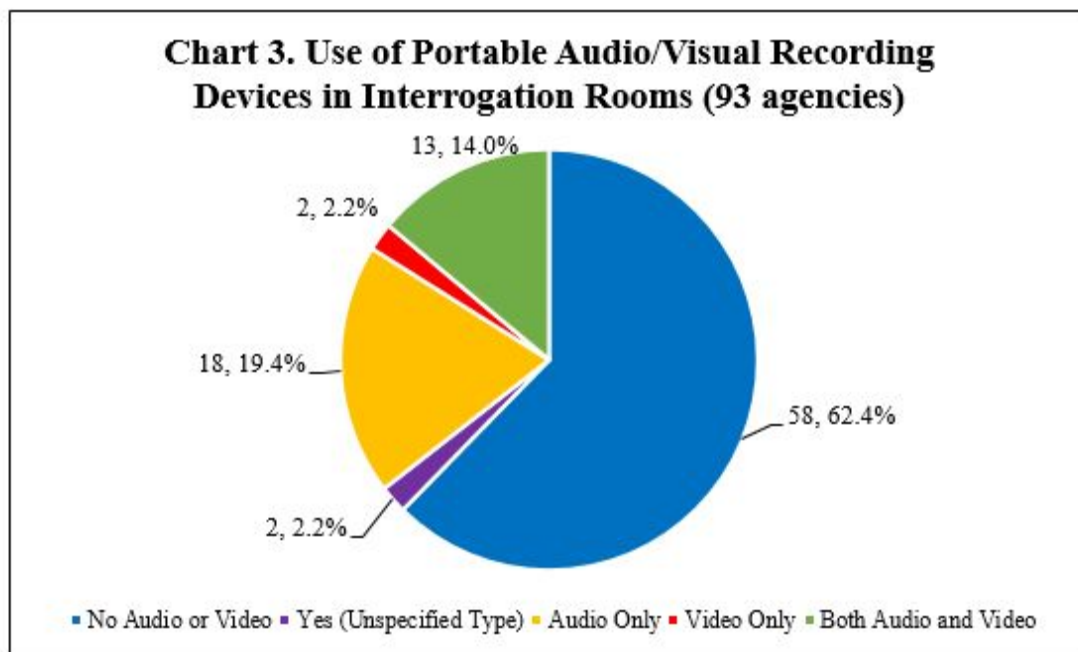
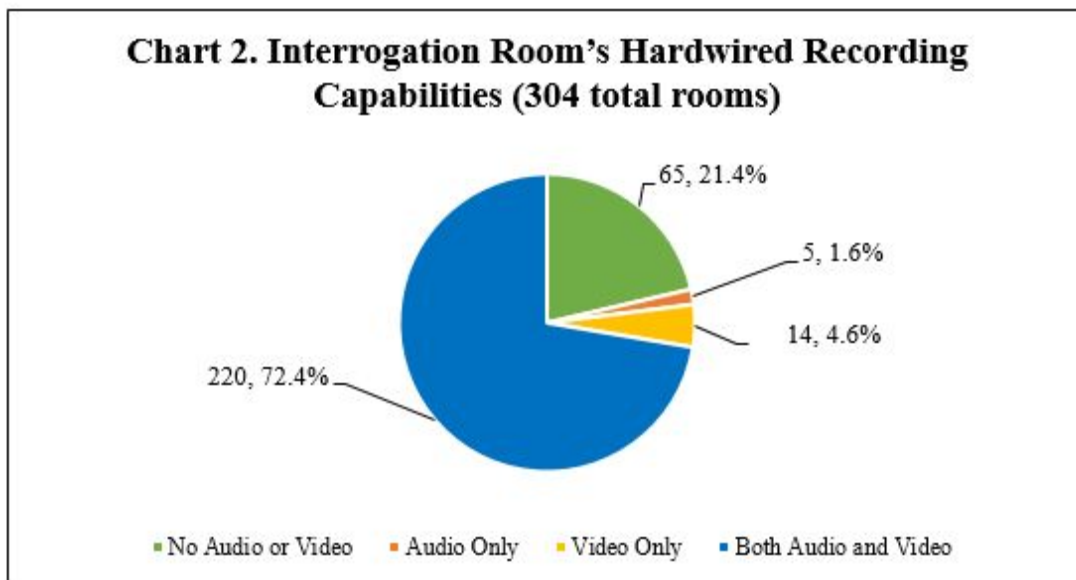
The results of the electronic interrogation room survey found the Prince George's County Police Department to have the highest number of interrogation rooms in the State, with a total of 33 rooms (*as illustrated in the [Appendix](#)*). Of the 93 agencies that have at least one interrogation room, six agencies (Anne Arundel County Police Department, Baltimore Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, Maryland State Police, Montgomery County Police Department, and Prince George's County Police Department) accounted for nearly half of all interrogation rooms in the State (145 rooms). As illustrated below, **Chart 1** provides a breakdown of the number of interrogation rooms by agency.



Audio/Visual Recording Capabilities

Of the 304 interrogation rooms in the State, 237 (78%) are equipped with some type of hardwired audio or visual recording capabilities. This represents a 4.8% increase over the 226 interrogation rooms with some type of audio or visual recording capability reported in 2018. Of

the rooms equipped with these technologies, the vast majority (92%) have both audio and visual recording capabilities. As illustrated below, **Chart 2** provides the various types of hardwired recording capabilities utilized within interrogation rooms in Maryland. Of the 93 agencies with at least one interrogation room, 38% (n = 35) use some type of portable audio or visual recording device in their rooms (see **Chart 3**).

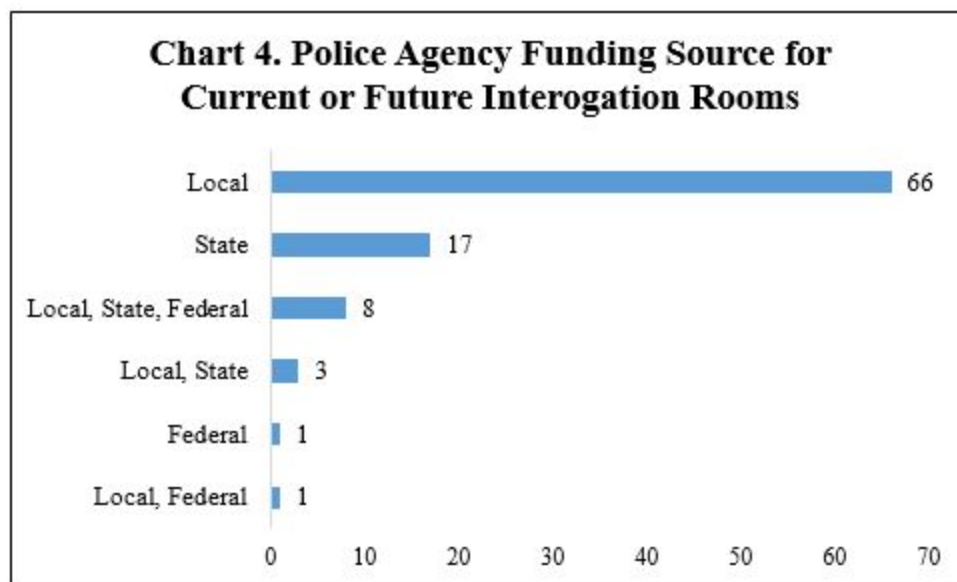


Future Plans for Interrogation Rooms or Audio/Visual Recording Enhancements

Most of the agencies indicated no future plans for the creation or addition of interrogation rooms within their agency (87.6%). Furthermore, over 81% of agencies reported no future plans of purchasing new audio or visual recording equipment.

Funding Sources

Ninety-six agencies listed a current or future funding source(s) for their interrogation rooms. As illustrated below, **Chart 4** provides a breakdown of the various local, State, and/or federal funding sources.



Discussion

The major findings of the 2018 electronic interrogation room survey to law enforcement agencies include the following:

- Over two-thirds of Maryland law enforcement agencies have at least one interrogation room to conduct custodial interrogations.
- Over three-fourths of interrogation rooms are equipped with some type of hardwired audio or visual recording capabilities, many times both recording options are available.
- Sixty-two percent of all audio visual recording equipment in law enforcement interrogation rooms are stationary and cannot be transported.

- Most agencies have not indicated any future plans to add new or additional interrogations rooms or new forms of audio/visual recording equipment.

The Office will continue to provide support through the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, Law Enforcement Technology grant for law enforcement equipment, and will provide annual updates on the progress of each law enforcement agency in establishing interrogation rooms capable of creating audio/visual recordings of custodial interrogations.

Appendix: 2019 Interrogation Room Survey Results

Agency	Number of Rooms	No Audio/Video	Audio Only	Video Only	Audio and Video	Portable AV	Future Plans for Rooms	Future Plans for Equipment	Funding Source
Aberdeen Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Audio	No	No	Local
Allegany County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Annapolis Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Both	No	No	Unknown
Anne Arundel County Police Department	19	1	0	0	18	No	Yes	Yes	Local
Anne Arundel County Sheriff's Office	3	0	0	3	0	No	No	No	Local
Baltimore City Community College Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Baltimore City School Police Force	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Baltimore City Sheriff's Office	3	0	3	0	0	Audio	No	No	Local, State, Federal
Baltimore County Police Department	21	10	0	0	11	No	No	No	Local
Baltimore County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Baltimore Police Department	30	20	0	0	10	Audio	No	No	Local, State, Federal
Bel Air Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	Yes	Local
Berlin Police Department	1	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local
Berwyn Heights Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	Yes	Local
Bladensburg Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Audio	Yes	Yes	Local
Boonsboro Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	Local
Bowie State University Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	No	Yes	Yes	Local, State, Federal
Brentwood Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	Local, State, Federal
Brunswick Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	Local
Calvert County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	Audio	No	No	Unknown
Cambridge Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	Both	No	No	Local
Capitol Heights Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	Federal
Caroline County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	Yes	Yes	Local
Carroll County Sheriff's Office	5	0	0	0	5	No	No	No	Local
Cecil County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	No	Yes	Yes	Local
Centreville Police Department	1	0	0	0	0	Both	No	No	Local
Charles County Sheriff's Office	4	0	0	0	4	No	No	No	Local
Chestertown Police Department	1	0	0	1	0	No	No	Yes	Local
Cheverly Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Chevy Chase Village Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
City of Bowie Police Department	3	0	0	0	3	No	No	No	Unknown
Colmar Manor Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Coppin State University Police	2	0	0	0	2	Video	No	No	State
Cottage City Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Crisfield Police Department	1	0	1	0	0	Audio	No	No	State
Crofton Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Cumberland Police Department	2	1	0	0	1	Audio	No	No	Local
Delmar Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local, State, Federal
Denton Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Department of General Services	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
District Heights Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Easton Police Department	3	0	0	0	3	Both	No	No	Local
Edmonston Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Elkton Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Fairmount Heights Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Federsburg Police Department	3	0	0	0	3	No	No	No	State
Forest Heights Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Frederick County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	State
Frederick Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local
Frostburg Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	No	No	No	Local
Frostburg State University Police	1	0	0	0	1	Both	No	No	State
Fruitland Police Department	3	0	0	1	2	Both	No	Yes	Local
Gaithersburg Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Both	Yes	Yes	Local
Garrett County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Gibson Island Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Glenarden Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Greenbelt Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	Yes	Local
Greensboro Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Both	No	No	Local
Hagerstown Community College Police	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Hagerstown Police Department	4	0	0	0	4	No	No	No	Local
Hampstead Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Hancock Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Harford County Sheriff's Office	10	0	1	0	10	Audio	No	Yes	Local, State
Havre de Grace Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Howard County Police Department	8	0	0	0	8	Audio	No	Yes	Local
Howard County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Hurlock Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	Both	No	No	Unknown
Hyattsville Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	No	Yes	Yes	Local

Kent County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
La Plata Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown	Unknown
Landover Hills Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Laurel Police Department	3	0	0	0	3	No	No	No	Local
Lonacoring Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Luke Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Manchester Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Maryland Capitol Police	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	State
Maryland Comptroller Field Enforcement Division	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Maryland Natural Resources Police	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	State
Maryland State Police	17	4	0	3	10	No	Yes	Yes	State
Maryland Transit Administration Police	4	0	0	0	4	Audio	No	No	State
Maryland Transportation Authority Police	3	0	0	0	3	Unknown	Yes	No	State
Maryland-National Capital Park Police Montgomery County	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local
Maryland-National Capital Park Police Prince George's County	2	0	0	0	2	No	Yes	No	Local
Montgomery County Police Department	25	0	0	0	25	Audio	No	No	Local
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Morgan State University Police	1	0	0	0	0	Audio	No	No	Unknown
Morningside Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Mount Airy Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Mount Rainier Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Both	No	Yes	Local
New Carrollton Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
North East Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Oakland Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	Local
Ocean City Police Department	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local, State
Ocean Pines Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Oxford Police Department	1	0	0	1	0	No	No	No	Local
Perryville Police Department	3	0	0	0	3	No	No	No	Local
Pittsville Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	Local, Federal
Pocomoke City Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	Audio	No	No	Local, State
Prince George's County Community College Police	2	0	0	2	0	Video	No	No	Local
Prince George's County Police Department	33	16	0	0	17	Audio	Yes	Yes	Local
Prince George's County Sheriff's Office	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Princess Anne Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Queen Anne's County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local, State, Federal
Ridgely Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	Yes	No	Local, State, Federal
Rising Sun Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Riverdale Park Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	Both	No	No	Local
Rock Hall Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Rockville Police Department	2	0	0	1	1	No	No	No	Local
Salisbury Police Department	4	2	0	0	2	Audio	No	No	Local
Salisbury University Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	State
Seat Pleasant Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Smithsburg Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Snow Hill Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	State
Somerset County Sheriff's Office	2	2	0	0	0	No	No	Yes	Local
Spring Grove Hospital Center Police	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
St. Mary's County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	Both	Yes	Yes	Local
St. Michaels Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	State
Sykesville Police Department	1	0	0	1	0	No	No	No	Local
Takoma Park Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	Yes	Local
Talbot County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	Yes	Local
Taneytown Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	No	No	Yes	Local
Thurmont Police Department	2	2	0	0	0	Audio	No	Yes	Local, State, Federal
Towson University Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	State
Trappe Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
University of Maryland Baltimore Police	1	0	0	1	0	Audio	No	Yes	State
University of Baltimore Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
University of Maryland Baltimore County Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
University of Maryland Eastern Shore Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	Both	Yes	Yes	State
University of Maryland Police	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	State
University Park Police Department	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	n/a	n/a
Upper Marlboro Police Department	1	1	0	0	0	No	No	No	Unknown
Washington County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	No	No	No	Local
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission Police	0	0	0	0	0	n/a	No	No	n/a
Westminster Police Department	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local
Wicomico County Sheriff's Office	2	0	0	0	2	Audio	No	No	Local
Worcester County Sheriff's Office	1	0	0	0	1	No	No	No	Local